

Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Previously presented)** A fastener for continually exerting a tightening torque to a fastening member fixedly screwed onto a mounting base, comprising a torsion coil spring formed in a winding shape so as to be inserted in an axial direction into the aforesaid fastening member and having a fixing end to be fixed onto the aforesaid mounting base, and a detachable stopper fitted to said torsion coil spring, said torsion coil spring releasing the tightening torque accumulated thereby when removing said stopper to apply the tightening torque to the fastening member.

2. **(Original)** The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said stopper is formed in a ring so as to be fitted to the outer periphery of said torsion coil spring.

3. **(Previously presented)** The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said torsion coil spring is formed in a cylindrical shape so as to be retained without change in diameter by means of said stopper and radially expand gradually larger in diameter toward said fixing end of said torsion coil spring into a cylindrical cone shape when released from said stopper.

4. **(Previously presented)** The fastener according to claim 2, wherein said stopper formed in a ring has a flange projecting outward from its end face.

5. **(Original)** The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said stopper is formed of a wire member for restraining said torsion coil spring in the axially piled direction of said torsion coil spring.

6. **(Original)** The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said stopper is formed of a frame member for restraining said torsion coil spring in the axially piled direction of said spring.

7. **(Original)** The fastener according to claim 6, wherein said stopper is provided with a finger hook for placing a finger thereon.

8. **(Previously presented)** The fastener according to claim 2, wherein said torsion coil spring is formed in a cylindrical shape so as to be retained without change in diameter by means of said stopper and radially expand gradually larger in diameter toward said fixing end of said torsion coil spring into a cylindrical cone shape when released from said stopper.

9. **(Previously presented)** The fastener according to claim 3, wherein said stopper formed in a ring has a flange projecting outward from its end face.

10. **(New - withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 3, further comprising a driving member configured to be inserted into said stopper so as to drive said torsion coil spring out of said stopper to engage on the fastening member.

11. **(New - withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 10, wherein said stopper and said driving member are cylindrical.

12. **(New - withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 11, wherein said driving member has a radially outwardly extending flange at an end thereof to engage an end of said stopper when being inserted therein so as to prevent further insertion.

13. **(New - withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 2, further comprising a driving member configured to be inserted into said stopper so as to drive said torsion coil spring out of said stopper to engage on the fastening member.

14. **(New - withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 13, wherein said driving member is cylindrical and has a radially outwardly extending flange at an end thereof to engage an end of said stopper when being inserted therein so as to prevent further insertion.

15. **(New - withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 1, further comprising a driving member configured to be inserted into said stopper so as to drive said torsion coil spring out of said stopper to engage on the fastening member.

16. **(New - withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 15, wherein said driving member is cylindrical and has a radially outwardly extending flange at an end thereof to engage an end of said stopper when being inserted therein so as to prevent further insertion.

17. **(New)** The fastener according to claim 3, wherein said stopper is cylindrical and has an insert groove formed in a first end thereof, and said torsion coil spring has a fixing end that extends through said insert groove when said torsion coil spring is inserted in said stopper so that said fixing end can be engaged with a fixing part of the mounting base.

18. **(New)** The fastener according to claim 17, wherein said stopper has a radially outwardly extending flange at a second end thereof.

19. **(New)** The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said stopper is cylindrical and has an insert groove formed in a first end thereof, and said torsion coil spring has a fixing end that extend through said insert groove when said torsion coil spring is inserted in said stopper so that said fixing end can be engaged with a fixing part of the mounting base.

20. **(New)** The fastener according to claim 19, wherein said stopper has a radially outwardly extending flange at a second end thereof.